

Autobiography for Newark Chinatown Reunion Magazine

Joseph Eng Young, as told to Ronald Eng Young



I, Joe Young (Joseph Eng Young) now 94 years old, came from China in 1922 at the age of 12. The picture at the left was taken of me in China for my immigration documents. The picture at the right was taken of me when I passed through Ellis Island. I settled in Newark Chinatown and lived



in a laundry on Pennington Street. The picture at the left was taken of me in front of the laundry. The picture at the right was taken in front of the former laundry when



my family came to Newark for the first Newark Chinatown Reunion in 2004. I went to grade school near Chinatown. On Sundays I would attend Sunday School, sometimes going to two different churches, in order to learn English along with the Bible. I often saw Allan Eng-Achson, then known as Allan LumChee. I was baptized Joseph Eng at

Peddie Memorial Baptist Church on Broad Street.

When I was 15, I worked at Eagle Restaurant, located on the second floor of 158 Market Street, where I was first an apprentice in the kitchen. Then when I reached the legal age, I began working as a bus boy and a waiter. I attended Newark Technical School in the evening while working at Eagle Restaurant during lunch hour. I was living in the laundry and did whatever chores necessary to help. At night and every spare moment I studied English with the help of a Chinese dictionary. In the daytime when business was slow, the waiters, many of whom were college students from China helped me learn English. This went on for a few years while I was growing up.

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I then went to New York to Stewart Automobile School for practical training in automobile mechanics, receiving the certificate shown at right in 1927. I also went to Chamberlain School, a small private school in Brooklyn just to study English.



While working at Globe Restaurant on Broad Street during lunchtime, I then studied at Newark Technical School in the evening, studying Math, English, and technical subjects for about six years.

By 1931, I was accepted at Tri-State College in Angola, Indiana, to study Engineering. Tri-State had four quarter sessions and accepted students with unusual backgrounds from all over the world. I went with Joseph Mon of Newark Chinatown. He is the one at the right in this grouping of our housemates. We also bought and fixed up a car that Joe Mon used for a trip back to Newark to visit his wife and young child. In 1934 I graduated with B. S. in Mechanical Engineering.



I then took a one-year course in airplane and engine mechanics at Casey Jones School of Aeronautics, Newark, on Broad Street, opposite Washington Park, and worked as a waiter at Globe Restaurant, nearby, on weekends. All the years I went to night school, I had worked at Globe Restaurant



lunchtime. The picture shows me on the left, next to Jimmy Chin, another resident of Newark Chinatown, with other Casey Jones students in front of the School. The plaque indicates that the school was on the site of the home of Joseph Hedden, Jr., a Revolutionary War Martyr.

In 1936 I was hired by Couse Laboratories in East Orange to develop the mobile machine shop. War developed and the U.S. Government contracted Couse to manufacture a mobile maintenance machine shop for use in the Burma Road. Couse moved to 300 Passaic Street, Newark, for that production. I worked there for nine years until the end of the war when Couse Laboratories closed.

I then worked at various places, such as Weldotron, U.S. Tool Co., Bendix Aviation, China Motors, Conmar, as a draftsman, designer, and engineer, retiring in 1975 at age 65 from Westinghouse Electric in Bloomfield as an engineer.

On June 1, 1940, I married Alice Bo-Goon Moy of N. Y. Chinatown, a graduate of N.Y.U. One of our ushers was Wallace Seto Wey of Newark Chinatown. He is at the right in the wedding party photo. We lived on Oliver Street near Chinatown for almost two years, then moved with our 6 months old son, Ronald, to live at Bradley Court in Vailsburg, a new housing project for defense workers. I was a volunteer air raid warden evenings and



weekends. This pictures me wearing my warden's helmet with Ronald and Alice on the front steps. We lived at Bradley Court for 14 years. The next picture shows us with our four children, Ron, Judy, Linda, and Allan on our tenth anniversary. We then bought our house on Pine Grove Terrace in Vailsburg. We lived there until 1981 when we moved to Long Island to live with our daughter, Linda Joe, and her family.



We were all active at Kilburn Memorial Presbyterian Church on South Orange Avenue. Ron and Judy graduated from West Side High School, Linda and Allan from Vailsburg High. They were all honor students. We were proud to attend their graduation from college, Ron, Ph.D. - M.I.T., Judy, College of Wooster, Ohio, Linda, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and Allan, Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, Brooklyn.



We were also proud to attend the graduation of our four grandchildren, Ron and Jean's son, Evan, and their daughter, Lauren, from Harvard University, Linda's two daughters, Miranda from Hood College, Maryland, and Bernadette from Binghamton University, Binghamton, N. Y. Evan received his MBA from Stanford University in California June 2000 and Lauren also received her MBA from Stanford June 2003.

Allan and Lucy's son, Jeffrey, graduated from Simons Rock College of Bard College, Massachusetts, at the age of 18 with an Associates Degree, and is now studying Music at Oberlin. Their 16-year-old son, Nicholas, attends LaGuardia High School of Performing Arts in Manhattan.



This family photo shows, standing, Ron's wife Jean, Joe, Allan, Alice, Judy, Linda, Jeffrey, Miranda, Nicholas, Ron; kneeling, Lauren, Evan, Bernadette, Allan's wife Lucy. It has been 82 years since I arrived in Newark Chinatown and 65 years June 1st when Alice and I celebrate our wedding anniversary. I appreciate all the help and opportunities I have received along the way making it possible for me to have a wonderful life with my family.